ate workes and miracles they wrought they reioyced: wherein howſo euer they exceeded, wherevpon Chriſt reproueth them ſayinge *In this reioyce not that the ſpirits are ſubdued vnto you, but rather reioyce because your names are written in heauen.* yet marke that he doth it ſo as that he denyeth not but that they might reioyce therein, but rather indede alloweth and commendeth the ſame, ſo that we keepe a meaſure: and make it not our cheiſe ioye, the which ſhoulde be that *our names are written in heauen.* wherof the other giueth no aſſurance, for aſmuch as it may fall into a reprobate.

note the word rather but rather reioyce.

Math, 7, 22.

And truely how can they which heare of the aforeſayde worke of God but reioyce, when they ſee the Lorde Ieſus ſubduinge Satan vnto men. when we ſee by praier and faſtinge deuylls caſt out of men: when we ſee God perfourming his promiſe: the ſcripture before our eyes fulfilled, and our chriſtian brethren alſo delyuered from the torments of Sathan. If wee turne our eye eyther to God, or man: can wee chuſe but reioyce and bleſſe God for ſuch a worke? greatly then are they to blame, and farre from that affection they ſhoulde haue, who are diſquieted and offended here with: and moſt faultie of all ſhall they be, who when the worke ſhall be made maneſeſt to there conciences, (as I truſt by this treatiſe it is,) ſhall yet notwithſtanding lift vp there heele agaynſt it.

As we ought, ſo wee can not but reioce in this worke, if wee will conſider of it. In great fault then are they who maligne it.

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As we ought, ſo wee can not but reioce in this worke, if wee will conſider of it. In great fault then are they who maligne it.

¶ The Apprehenſion and confeſsion of three notorious Witches.

Arreigned and by Iuſtice condemned and executed at *Chelmeſ-forde*, in the Countye of Eſſex, *the 5. day of Iulye, laſt paſt.*

1589.

¶ With themanner of their diueliſh practices and keeping of their ſpirits, whoſe fourmes are heerein truelye proportioned.

To the Reader.

IF we would call to remembrance the manifolde mercies and innumerable benefites which the Almighty hath and daily bestoweth vpon vs, in consideration therof, we are bound to with-draw our filthy affections and naughty dispositions, from the vse of such detestable dealinges, as both are detested of God, whose almighty commaundements forbiddeth them, and vnto man, whose lawes are constituted to punish them as odious before the sight of God, wheron our earthly lawes groundeth and consisteth, and therfore vsed to pumsh or cut of such lewde or filthye offenders as by breaking the deuine decrees of the Almightie, by the lawes of man deserues to be condemned: But such is the blindenes of our estate, the naughtines of our affections, and the desire of our diueliſh appetites, that neither the commaundements of God, the lawes of our Realme, the loue of our neighbours, our owne welfare, or the fall of others can or may moue vs to consider how profitable it were for vs to examine our liues, and to blemish such vices in vs as both the lawes of God and man forbiddeth: For what can be more odious or abhominable vnto God then the depriuation of his diuine power, by yeelding our selues seruiles vnto sathan for a litle worldly wealth, or hatred we haue to our neighbours, where we might rest the seruantes, nay the Sonnes of Almighty

mighty God, who ſent his only Sonne to redeeme vs from the ſeruitude of bondage, and to bring vs vnto his bliſſe and eternall felicitie, which ſhall euermore remain perfect, which if we would conſider, what chriſtian is ſo blinded with ignorance or ouercome with the illuſions of Sathan, but he would tremble to think vpon the iudgments of the Almightie pronounced againſt ſuch offenders, or the lawes of the Realme, which by iuſtice decydeth them from their deuiliſh practiſes and abhominations? the glory wherof, although it be ſecretly concealed and vſed, yet can it not long continue, becauſe the Almighty will be no partaker of any ſuch dealinges, nor the hart of any faithfull Chriſtian conceale the ſecrets therof: which for example I haue heere publiſhed vnto you the diſcourſe of ſuch diueliſh practiſes as haue beene vſed by notorious Witches, whoſe names and actions I haue ſeuerally touched in the treatiſe following: with the manner of their accuſations, taken and approued before both honorable and woorſhipfull her Maieſties Iuſtices, at the laſt Aſsiſes holden at Chelmeſford in the County of Eſſex, according to the coppies both of the offendours confeſſion by examination: and their accuſations regeſtred.

The araignement and execution of *Joan Cunny of* Stysted *in the Countye* of Essex widowe, of the age of foureſcore yeeres, or ther-abouts, who was brought before *Anthony Mildemay* Esquire, the laſt day of March. *1589.*

IN primis, this examinate saith and confesseth, that she hath knowledge and can dw the most detestable Arte of Witchecraft, and that she learned this her knowledge in the same, of one mother Humfrye of Maplested, who told her that she must knæle down vpon her knæs, and make a Circle on the ground, and pray vnto Sathan the chæfe of the Deuills, the forme of which praier that she then taught her, this examinate hath now forgotten, and that then the Spirits would come vnto her, the which she put in practise about twenty yæres since, in the Fælde of Iohn Wiseman of Stysted Gentleman, called Cowkenne fælde, and there making a Circle as she was taught, and knæling on her knæs, said the praier now forgotten, and inuocating vpon Sathan: Two Spirites did appære vnto her within the said Circle, in the similitude and likenes of two black Frogges, and there demaunded of her what she would haue, bæing readye to dw for her what she would desire, so ỹ she would promise to giue them her soule for their trauaile, for otherwise: they would dw nothing for her. Wher-upon she did promise them her soule, and then they concluded with her so to dw for her, what she would require, and gaue thẽselues seuerall names, that is to say, the one Jack, and ỹ other Jyll, by the which names she did alwaies after call them. And then taking them vp, she caried

This witch had nine Spirits 3. of them were like vnto a black dog, hauing the faces of a Toade.

These spirits belonging to this witch, did sucke commonly vpon a sore leg which this mother Cunny had.

She had fower principall spirits.
The first was Iack.
The second was Iyll.
The third was Nicholas.
The fourth was Ned.

Iack killed mankinde. Iyll killed women-kinde. Nicholas killed horſes. Ned killed Cattell.

them home in her lap and put them in a Box and gaue them white bread and milke.

And within one moneth after ſhe ſent them to milke Hurrelles Beaſtes, which they did, and they would bring milke for their owne eating and not for her.

And further, ſhe ſaith that her ſprites neuer changed their colour ſince they firſt came vnto her, and that they would familiarly talke with her, when ſhe had any thing to ſay or do with them in her owne language.

Note how Gods ſpirit confoundeth the impes of wickednes.

And likewiſe ſhe confeſſeth that ſhe ſent her ſaide ſpirits to hurt the wife of Iohn Sparrow the elder, of Styſted, which they did, and alſo that where Maiſter Iohn Glaſcock of Styſted, afore ſaide: had a great ſtack of Logges in his yarde, ſhe by her ſaid Spirits did ouerthrowe them.

And further, ſaith that ſhe hath hurt diuers perſons within this ſixtæne or twenty yæres, but how many ſhe now knoweth not.

Furthermore, ſhe confeſſeth that ſhe ſent her ſprites vnto William Unglæ of Styſted Miller, and becauſe they could not hurt him, ſhe ſent them to hurt one Barnabie Griffyn his man, which they did.

Likewiſe ſhe confeſſeth, that ſhe ſent her ſaide ſprites, to hurt Maiſter Kitchin Miniſter of the ſaide towne, and alſo vnto one George Coe of the ſaide towne ſhoemaker, to hurt him likewiſe: but they could not, and the cauſe why they could not, as the ſaide ſprites tolde her, was becauſe they had at their comming a ſtrong faith in God, and had inuocated and called vpon him, that they could do them no harme.

And further ſhe ſaith, that Margaret Cunny her Daughter, did fall out with Father Hurrill, and gaue

him cuſed ſpæches, and ther-vpon, ſhe thinketh ſhe ſent her ſpirits to her.

Alſo ſhe doth vtterlye denye that ſhe ſent her ſaide ſpirits to Finches wife, Deuenilhes wife, and Renold Ferror or any of them to hurt them.

And being further examined, ſhe confeſſeth that although her ſaid ſpirits at ſome time can haue no power to hurt men, yet they may haue power to hurt their Cattell.

This Joane Cunny, liuing very lewdly, hauing two lewde Daughters, no better then naughty packs, had two Baſtard Children: being both boyes, theſe two Children were cheefe witneſſes, and gaue in great euidence againſt their Grandam and Mothers, the eldeſt being about 10. or 12. yeares of age.

Againſt this Mother Cunny the elder Boye gaue in this euideoce which ſhe her ſelfe after confeſſed, that ſhe going to Braintye Market, came to one Harry Finches houſe, to demaund ſome drink, his wife being buſie and a brewing, tolde her ſhe had no leyſure to giue her any. Then Joane Cunnye went away diſcontented: and at night Finches wife was greeuouſly taken in her head, and the next day in her ſide, and ſo continued in moſt horrible paine for the ſpace of a week, and then dyed.

Mother Cunnye confeſſed that ſhe ſent her ſpirite Jill to torment her.

The ſame boy confeſſed that he was commaunded by his Grandmother to fetch a burden of wood, which he gathered, but another boye ſtole it from him, and he came home without: and tolde his Grandam: and ſhe commaunded her ſpirite to prick the ſame boy in the foote, which was done, and the ſame boye came to the

barre lame and gaue euidence against her.

Againe the same boy confessed that his Grandam when he had lost his wood, saide she would haue wood enough: and bad him goe into Sir Edward Huddlestones ground beeing high Sheriffe of the Shære, and to take with him Jack the spritte, and so he did, who went vnseene to any body but to the boy, and when they came to a mighty Oke-tree, the spirit went about it, and presently the Tree blew vp by the roots: and no winde at all stirring at this time: which Master high Sheriffe acknowledged to be blown down in a great calme.

¶ The confession of Ioan Vpney of Dagenham, in the Countye of Essex, who was brought before Sir Henrye Gray Knight, the third of May. 1589.

THis examinate saith, that one Fustian Kirtle, otherwise called White-cote, a witch of Barking, came to her house about seauen or eight yeares agoe and gaue her a thing like a Moule, and tolde her if she ought any body any ill will, if she did bid it, it would goe clap them.

She saith that Moule taryed not aboue a yeare with her, but it consumed away, and then she gaue her another Moule and a Toad, which she kept a great while, and was neuer without some Toades since till her last going away from her house, when she confesseth she ranne away, because she heard John Harrolde and Richard Foster say she was a witch, and vrch other wordes.

She saith that one day she left a Toade vnder the groundsill at Harrolds house, and it pinched his wife

and ſucked her till ſhe dyed, but it neuer cãe to her the ſaide Joan Upney againe.

She ſaith, that one day another Toade went ouer her threſhold as Richard Fosters wife was coming that way, and it went and pinched her, and neuer returned againe.

Other two Toades ſhe left at home, when ſhe ran away, but they conſumed away.

She ſaith that her eldeſt Daughter would neuer abide to meddle with her Toades, but her youngeſt daughter would handle them, and vſe them as well as her ſelfe.

The examinarion of Ioan Prentice, one of the women of the Almes houſe of Himningham Sibble, within the ſaide County: beeing taken the 29. of March, in the 31. yeere of the raigne of our Soueraigne Lady Elizabeth.

IN Primis, this ſaide examinate ſaith and confeſſeth, that about ſixe yeares laſt paſt, betweene the feaſtes of all Saintes, and the birth of our Lord God, the deuill appeared vnto her in the Almes houſe aforeſaide: about ten of the Clock in the night time, being in the ſhape and proportion of a dunniſh coulloured Ferret, hauing fiery eyes, and the ſaide Examinate being alone

in her Chamber, and sitting vpon a low stole, preparing her selfe to bedward: the Ferrit standing with his hinder legs vpon the ground, and his fore legs setled vpon her lappe, and setting his fiery eyes vpon her eyes, spake and pronounced vnto her these wordes following, namelye: Joan Prentice giue me thy soule, to whome this Examinate being greatly amazed, answered and said: In the name of god what art thou The Ferrit answered, I am Satan, feare me not my comming vnto thee is to do thee no hurt but to obtaine thy soule, which I must and will haue before I departe from thee to whome the saide examinate answered and said, that he demaunded that of her which is none of hers to giue, saying: that her soule appertained onely vnto Jesus Christ, by whose precious blood shedding, it was bought and purchased. To whome the saide Ferret replyed and saide, I must then haue some of thy blood, which she willingly graunting, offered him the forefinger of her left hand, the which the Ferrit toke into his mouth, and setting his former feete vpon that hand, suckt blood therout, in so much that her finger did smart exceedingye: and the saide examinate demaunding againe of the Ferrit what his name was: It answered Bidd. and then presently the said Ferrit vanished out of her sight sodainly.

Item

Item, the ſaide examinate ſaith further, that about one moneth after, the ſaide Ferrit came againe vnto her in the night time as ſhe was ſitting vpon a little ſtole, preparing her ſelfe to bed-ward, as is aboue ſaide: Joan will thou goe to bed, to whome ſhe anſwered yea that I will by Gods grace, then preſently the Ferret leapt vp vpon her lap, and from thence vp to her boſome, and laying his former feete vpon her lefte ſhoulder, ſucked blood out of her lefte cheeke, and then he ſaide vnto her, Joan if thou will haue me doo any thing for thee, I am and wilbe alwaies ready at thy commaundement, and ther-upon ſhe beeing a little before fallen out with William Adams his wife of Hinningham Sibble aforeſaide: willed the Ferret to ſpoile her drinke which was then in brewing, which he did accordingly.

Item, the ſaide examinate further more ſaith and confeſſeth, that the ſaide Ferret diuers times after appeared vnto her alwaies at the time when ſhe was going to bed, and the laſt time he appeared vnto her was about ſeauen weekes laſt paſt, at which time ſhe going to bed, the Ferrit leapt vpon her left ſhoulder, and ſucked blood out of her lefte cheeke, and that doone: he demaunded of her what ſhe had for him to doo? To whō ſhe anſwered, goe vnto Maiſter Glaſcocks houſe, and nippe one of his Children a little, named Sara, but hurt it not, and the next night he reſorted vnto her againe, and told her that he had doon as ſhe willed him: namely, that he had nipt Sara Glaſcock, and that ſhe ſhould dye therof, to whome ſhe anſwered and ſaide, thou villaine what haſt thou doon, I bid thee to nip it but a little and not to hurt it, and haſt thou killed the

childe: which speach beeing vttered, the Ferrit vanished away suddenly, and neuer came to her sithence.

Item, she affirmeth, that the occasion why she did will her Ferret to nippe the saide childe, was for that she beeing the daye before at the house of the saide Maister Glascok, to begge his almes, answere was made to her by one of his maiden seruantes, that both her Maister and Mistres were from home, and therfore desired her to be contented for that time, and therupon the examinate departed greatlye discontented, and that night sent her Ferret to nip the childe as is aboue saide.

Item, she saith and affirmeth, that at what time soeuer she would haue her Ferret dw any thing for her, she vled these wordes, Bidd, Bidd, Bidd, come Bidd, come bidd, come bidd, come suck, come suck, come suck, and that presently he would appeare as is afore saide: and suckt blood out of her left cheeke, and then performed any mischefe she willed or wished him to dw for her vnto or against any of her neighbours.

Lastly the said examinate saith, and confesseth, that one Elizabeth Whale, the wife of Michaell Whale of Henningham Sibble afore saide labourer, and Elizabeth Mott, the wife of John Mot of the saide Towne Cobler, are as well acquainted with her Bidd as her selfe is, but knoweth not what hurt they or any of thē haue donne to any of their neighbours.

When their inditements were read, and their examinations also, they stode vpon their tearmes, to prolong life: yet to make the matters more apparant, sundry witnesses were produced to giue euidēce against

againſt them, and firſte the Iudge of the circuite very wiſely with a great foreſight, called in the two Baſterd Children before mention made, and counſelled them greatlye for telling the trueth of that which he ſhould aſke them, concerning their Grandame and their mothers, which they did, and hauing ſaide what they could, together with the depoſitions of ſundrye other witneſſes, they hauing confeſſed ſufficient matter to proue the inditements. The Iury found theſe bad women guiltie and that they had ſlaine Men, women, and Children, And committed very wicked and horrible actions, diuers and ſundrye times, and ther-upon, the Iudge proceaded, and pronounced the ſentence of death againſt them, as worthely they had deſerued.

After they had receiued their iudgments, they were conuayed from the Barre backe againe to Priſon, where they had not ſtayed aboue two howers, but the officers prepared them-ſelues to conduct them to the place of execution: to which place they led them, and being come thether, one Maiſter Ward a learned deuine, beeing deſired by the Iuſtices, did exhorte theſe wicked women to repentance, And perſwaded them that they would ſhewe vnto the people the trueth of their wickednes, and to call vpon God for mercy with penitent hartes. And to aſke pardon at his hands for the ſame: ſome fewe prayers they ſaide after the preacher, but little els: more then this, that they had deſerued to dye, in committing thoſe wicked ſinnes: and ſo tooke their deathes patiently.

Note, that Mother Vpney being inwardlye pricked and hauing ſome inward feeling in conſcience cryed out ſaying: that ſhe had greeuouſly ſinned, that the de-

uill had deceiued her, the deuill had deceiued her, and that she had twice giuen her soule to the Deuill, yet by the meanes of Gods spirite wourking in her, and the paines which Walker ward tooke with her, she seemed very sorry for ỹ same, and died very penitent, asking God & the world forgiuenes, euen to ỹ last gaspe, for her wicked and detestable life.

FSNIS.